

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims to read, as follows:

1-6. (Cancelled)

7. (Currently Amended) A diagnostic An immunoassay method for detecting infection in a human by human papillomavirus 16, said method comprising the steps of:

reacting a sample of body fluid or tissue likely to contain serum antibodies raised against ~~one or more peptides isolated from the E2 early coding regions of human papillomavirus 16 and 18 to diagnose cervical disease or detect cervical cellular abnormalities~~ a polypeptide which includes amino acids 124 through 142 of the E2 early coding region of human papillomavirus 16 with a peptide according to SEQ ID NO.: 1, wherein carboxymethylcysteine is substituted for one or more cysteine residues in said peptide; forming a complex of said papillomavirus isolated peptide and sample serum antibodies[[]], wherein the formation of said antibody-peptide complex confirms the presence of serum antibodies to human papillomavirus 16; and detecting said antibody-peptide complex.

8-16. (Cancelled)

17. (Currently Amended) A diagnostic An immunoassay method for detecting infection in a human by human papillomavirus 16 according to claim 7, wherein the detection step is accomplished by means of visual inspection of a color change.

18. (Currently Amended) ~~A diagnostic~~ An immunoassay method for detecting infection in a human by human papillomavirus 16 according to claim 7, wherein the detection step is accomplished by a spectrophotometer.

19. (Currently Amended) ~~A diagnostic~~ An immunoassay method for detecting infection in a human by human papillomavirus 16 according to claim 7, wherein the detection step further comprises inspecting said antibody-peptide complex for physical-chemical changes.

20-22. (Cancelled)